

Good Morning,

I submit this testimony to you in full support of house bill 5580.

My name is Vincent Landisio and I am the Fire Chief in the Town of North Haven. I submit this testimony in full support of all five (5) recommendations of the PSA task force. I consider myself fortunate to have been a committee member of the task force, having been appointed by State Senator Martin Looney. From the very first meeting the obvious difficult task in the room is who should get the PSA. This issue was not an easy one to address and the only recommendation that was not unanimously carried by the entire task force. After weeks and many meetings a split vote, but majority vote, was carried to allow the municipality to take the PSA if the municipality shows that it can deliver said services to an equal or better level. I urge you to adopt the recommendations of the committee.

The recommendation was opposed by the groups that have had the favor of the current regulation on their side for many many years. Obviously, the opponents of task force recommendation number five like the current "arranged marriage" situation that they find themselves in now. They like the fact that they can not be removed unless an emergency exists. And they like the fact that the current regulation fails to define a true emergency.

What I find most interesting, however, were the reasons that the opposition gave for maintaining the status quo. The reasoning of the opponents to task force recommendation #5 stated that this change would jeopardize patient care, system stabilization and regionalization. Their reason for opposing recommendation #5 are in direct conflict with the Fire and EMS services. I have been in this business for 31 years and I have yet to find a Fire Chief that would jeopardize patient care, regionalization and system stabilization. These are concepts embraced by the fire service. My opponents fight to not endorse recommendation 5 and the reasons they give are just not valid. Again, I know of no Fire Chief who would impact the reasons listed by the minority view.

In closing what I found very interesting was the amount of lobbyists and attorneys representing my opponents view that were present at every single task force meeting. If their primary reasoning for not changing the law was patient care, system stabilization and regionalization why would lobbyists and attorneys be needed?

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